

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-47 are pending in the present application.

As will be discussed below, Claim 1 has been amended. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, entry of the present Amendment is requested.

Claims 1-47 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sawamoto or Isono. Additionally, Claims 1-47 have also been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arnold in view of either Isono or Sawamoto.

It is indicated that the rejection remains as stated in the Office Action dated June 22, 2001. It is further indicated that Applicants' arguments have been considered but are not persuasive. Specifically, it is indicated that Sawamoto and Isono each disclose polymers which qualify as polymer A, polymers which qualify as polymer B, and compounds which qualify as compound C.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the following reasons.

In order to further distinguish the present claimed invention from the cited references, Applicants have amended Claim 1 to recite "an adhesive composition comprising a thermoplastic, water dispersible and self-crosslinkable high molecular weight polymer (A) containing . . . ." Accordingly, Claim 46 has been cancelled.

The term "self-crosslinkable polymer" means a polymer having a functional group capable of forming a cross linkage without using a crosslinking agent and a combination of two or more functional groups capable of forming a crosslinkage without using a crosslinking agent. Polymer (A) referred to in amended Claim 1 is a self-crosslinkable polymer. Such a polymer is not taught or suggested by the references of record.

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In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2-6 and the claims which depend therefrom, are also not taught or suggested by the cited references for the reasons set forth in the Amendment filed December 26, 2001. In particular, Applicants respectfully submit that the adhesive composition of the present claimed invention lies in the combination of A + B + C + D (Claim 2), A + I (Claim 3), A + I + D (Claim 4), B + I (Claim 5) and B + I + D (Claim 6). Applicants respectfully submit that the above combinations of Claims 2 to 6 are not taught or suggested by the cited references.

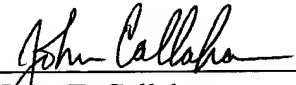
In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the present claimed invention is not rendered *prima facie* obvious by Sawamoto, Isono or Arnold. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

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**APPENDIX**

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**Claim 46 is canceled.**

**The claims are amended as follows:**

1. (Amended) An adhesive composition comprising a thermoplastic, ~~and~~ water dispersible and self-crosslinkable high molecular weight polymer (A) containing a crosslinkable functional group as a pendant group and substantially free of carbon-carbon double bonds with a hydrogen radical at its allyl position in the main chain, a water-soluble high polymer (B) and a compound (D) having a structure with methylene linked aromatics having a polar functional group.